

Claims Amendment B

1. (currently amended): A coupling for joining abutting ends of relatively soft plastic conduits, comprising:

- a) two half shells with gripping means,
- b) a seal, and
- c) a plurality of toggle clamps,

wherein whereby, actuation of said toggle clamps causes said half shells to encompass, grip, and lock together said conduit ends and said seal prevents leakage in or out of said conduit ends.

2. (previously presented—see Amend. A): The coupling of claim 1 wherein said two half shells with gripping means contain a plurality of gripping teeth.

3. (previously presented): The coupling of claim 2 wherein said plurality of gripping teeth are saw-toothed shaped circumferential ribs.

4. (previously presented): The coupling of claim 2 wherein said plurality of gripping teeth are saw-toothed shaped scallops.

5. (previously presented): The coupling of claim 1 wherein said two half shells contain circumferential ribs that compress said seal into contact with said conduits.

6. (previously presented): The coupling of claim 1 wherein said two half shells are made of material significantly harder than said soft plastic conduits.

7. (previously presented): The coupling of claim 6 wherein said two half shells are made of relatively hard plastic material.

Claims Amendment B (con'd)

8. (new): The method of rigidly joining abutting ends of relatively soft plastic conduits, comprising the steps of:

- a) inserting the end of first said conduit approximately half way into an encompassing seal,
- b) inserting the end of second said conduit into the opposite end of said encompassing seal approximately half way into said encompassing seal,
- c) encompassing said conduits and said seal with a pair of hinged half shells, and
- d) operating toggle clamp levers at opposite ends of said pair of hinged half shells,

whereby, the two conduits are rigidly gripped and joined and the resulting joint is adequately sealed.